

PHI 103—Critical Thinking

INSTRUCTOR | Dr. Amanda J. Favia

OFFICE | Nassau Hall (Building M), Room 217G

OFFICE HOURS | M 11:00 am - 12:15 pm, W 9:30- 10:45 & By Appointment (on campus or online via IM Chat in NCC email).

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COURSE DESCRIPTION | In this course, we will investigate two topics. The first concerns the nature and formal properties of arguments. Here, we will familiarize ourselves with the nature of deduction, induction, validity, soundness, and probabilistic reasoning. The second concerns the evaluation of arguments. Here, we will develop skills that enable us to differentiate good and bad arguments.

TEXT | Vaughn, L. (2015) [The power of critical thinking](#). 5th Edition. Oxford: Oxford UP.

NETIQUETTE | Just like a traditional classroom, there are some basic rules for proper behavior and communication in an online class. For details & requirements see Netiquette: Online Classroom Etiquette under the Readings link.

EMAIL | Email will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you check your e-mail several times per week. For details & requirements see Email Etiquette under the Readings link. Also, please note that all email correspondence will be attended to in a timely fashion during business hours.

GRADES | Grades will be determined in the following manner:

- Assignments = 30%
- Discussion Board Projects & Participation = 20%
- Exams = 50%

ASSIGNMENTS | You will find assignments listed under the Assignment link. Most assignments will consist of exercises found in the textbook. Follow all instructions carefully for full credit. Assignments will be graded and feedback will be provided. All assignments will be submitted through the Assignment link. DO NOT email assignments. All assignments have a strict due date. NO LATE assignments. If an assignment is late (or sent via email), you will not receive credit. NO MAKE-UP assignments.

DISCUSSION BOARD PROJECTS & PARTICIPATION | This grade has two aspects:

1. Discussion Board Projects: There are four (4) Discussion Board Projects. Instructions for each project can be found under the Discussion Board Project link. Each project has a set due date. NO LATE projects. If a project is late, you will not receive credit. NO MAKE-UP projects.
2. Participation consists of general Blackboard activity, which will be monitored. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Logging in on a regular basis
- Downloading weekly Lectures
- Participation on Assignment Feedback forum
- Participation on Student Commons forum
- Syllabus Quiz

Note: questions and comments on discussion boards must pertain to the topic being discussed and to the assigned readings for credit.

EXAMS | Exams consist of various exercises that we will learn throughout the semester.

Exam 1 & Exam 2 will be given online and can be found under the Exam link. These exams will only be available for set period of time (see schedule). **NO EXCEPTIONS**. And all exams are taken online and **TIMED**. Once you start the exam you will have a set time to complete it.

Exam 3 will be given on campus during the last week of classes. There will be two exam times to choose from (see schedule).

There are **NO MAKE-UP** exams.

COURSE POLICES | Failure to follow these policies will affect your grade:

- You are responsible for uploading your work **ON TIME**.
- You are responsible for seeking technical assistance when you encounter a problem with Blackboard or with your computer.
- You are responsible for following the rules of basic Netiquette (see above).
- Academic Integrity: Cheating and Plagiarism will result in automatic **FAILURE** of the course! See the Student Code of Conduct for details:
http://www.ncc.edu/administration/policies/code_conduct.htm.

PLEASE NOTE | If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may have an impact on your ability to carry out the assigned coursework, I urge you to contact the staff at the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), Building U, (516)572-7241, TTY (516)572-7617. The counselors at CSD will review your concerns and determine to what reasonable accommodations you are entitled as covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All information and documentation pertaining to personal disabilities will be kept confidential.

Class Schedule

(subject to revision)

WEEK 1 (Thursday 9/1 - Thursday 9/8) -- Course Overview

- Reading | Syllabus, Schedule & Course Instructions
- Lecture 1, Part 1 & 2
- **Discussion Board Project 1:** Introduction & Critical Thinking Self-Rating Form. Due no later than **Thursday, 9/8.**
- **Syllabus Quiz:** Due no later than **Thursday, 9/8.**

WEEK 2 (Friday 9/10 - Wednesday 9/14) -- The Power of Critical Thinking

- Reading | Chapter 1, p. 3 – 20
- Lecture 2
- **Assignment 1:** Due no later than **Wednesday, 9/14.**

WEEK 3 (Thursday 9/15 - Tuesday 9/20)-- Making Sense of Arguments

- Reading| Chapter 3, p. 58 - 70
- Lecture 3
- **Assignment 2:** Due no later than **Tuesday, 9/20.**

Week 4 (Wednesday 9/21 - Tuesday 9/27) -- Making Sense of Arguments

- Reading| Chapter 3, p. 73–77, 86-91
- Lecture 4
- **Assignment 3:** Due no later than **Tuesday, 9/27**

Week 5 (Wednesday 9/28 - Tuesday 10/4) -- Argument Forms

- Reading| Chapter 3, 79-83
- Lecture 5
- **Discussion Board Project 2: Identifying Arguments.** Due no later than **Tuesday, 10/4.**
- **Assignment 4:** Due no later than **Tuesday, 10/4.**

WEEK 6 (Wednesday 10/6 - Tuesday 10/11)-- Review & Exam 1

- Reading| Review Sheet #1
- **EXAM 1:** Available from **Sunday 10/9 - Tuesday 10/11.**

WEEK 7 (Thursday 10/13 - Tuesday 10/18)

- Chapter 4, p. 109 -145
- Lecture 6
- **Assignment 5:** Due no later than **Tuesday, 10/18.**

WEEK 8 (Wednesday 10/19 - Tuesday 10/25) -- *Fallacies*

- Chapter 5, p. 155 - 182
- Lecture 6 (cont'd)
- **Assignment 6: Due** no later than **Tuesday, 10/25.**

Week 9 (Wednesday 10/26 - Tuesday 11/1)-- *Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic*

- Reading| Chapter 6, p. 193-203
- Lecture 7
- **Discussion Board Project 3: Fallacy Video: Due** no later than **Tuesday, 11/1.**
- **Assignment 7: Due** no later than **Tuesday, 11/1.**

Week 10 (Wednesday 11/2 - Tuesday 11/8) -- *Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic (continued)*

- Reading | Chapter 6, p. 205 - 215
- Lecture 8
- **Discussion Board Project 4: Symbolizing Arguments: Due** no later than **Tuesday 11/8.**
- **Assignment 8: Due** no later than **Tuesday 11/8.**

Week 11 (Wednesday 11/9 - Tuesday 11/15) -- *Review & Exam 2*

- Reading| Review Sheet #2
- Practice Exam 2
- **EXAM #2:** Available from **Sunday 11/13 - Tuesday 11/15**

WEEK 12 (Wednesday 11/16 - Tuesday 11/22) -- *Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic (cont'd)*

- Reading | Chapter 6, p. 205 - 215
- Lecture 9
- **Assignment 9: Due** no later than **Tuesday, 11/22.**

Thanksgiving Break 11/23 - 11/27

WEEK 13 (Monday 11/28 - Monday 12/5) -- *Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic (cont'd)*

- Reading | Chapter 6 p. 193 - 215
- Repeat Lectures 7, 8 & 9
- **Assignment 10: Due** no later than **Monday 5/2.**

WEEK 14 (Tuesday 12/6 - Monday 12/12) -- *Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic*

- Reading| Chapter 7, p. 230 - 246
- Lecture 10
- **Assignment 11: Due** no later than **Monday, 12/12.**

WEEK 15 (Tuesday 12/13 - Thursday 12/22) -- *Review and Exam 3*

- Reading| Review Sheet 3
- Practice Exam 3
- **EXAM 3: On Campus: TBA**